

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8037

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AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 111652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH DEMARCHE ON RECENT STATEMENTS BY US OFFICIALS

REF: ANKARA 1331

1. YUKSEL SOYIEMEZ, MFA'S DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, CALLED IN DCM FEBRUARY 19 TO EXPRESS GOT'S CONCERN OVER RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY US OFFICIALS REGARDING THE ADVERSE EFFECT OF RENEWED POPPY CULTIVATION IN TURKEY ON THE ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC INTO THE US. CITING RECENT STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO JOHN BARTELS, JR., JOHN CUSACK, AND PAUL KNIGHT, SOYLEMEZ SAID THE GOT REGARDED THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 1974 WELCOMING THE GOT'S ADOPTION OF THE POPPY STRAW SYSTEM AS THE OFFICIAL US POSITION ON THIS MATTER. IN VIEW OF SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT AND SIMILAR STATEMENTS FROM THE UNN SOYLEMEZ SAID THE GOT WAS "DISTURBED" OVER PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY US CIVIL SERVANTS WHICH APPEARED TO BE IN CONFLICT WITH THE OFFICIAL US POSITION. DCM POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS GENUINE CONCERN IN US OVER POSSIBILITY THAT RESUMPTION BY TURKS OF POPPY CULTIVATION WOULD RESULT IN

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INCREASED ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC TO US. AT SAME TIME,

DEPT SPOKESMEN HAD WELCOMED GOT STRAW PROCESS DECISION.
DCM SAID THAT SOYLEMEZ'S CONCERN OVER ABOVE STATEMENTS
WOULD BE PROMPTLY REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

2. COMMENT: TOGETHER WITH EARLIER COMMENTS BY WORKING-
LEVEL OFFICIALS (REFTEL), SOYLEMEZ'S DEMARCHE REITERATES GOT
CONCERN OVER RECENT STATEMENTS BY US OFFICIALS. AS STATED
IN REFTEL, WE BELIEVE USEFULNESS OF CONTINUED STATEMENTS
ALONG THESE LINES MAY BE OUTWEIGHED BY THEIR NEGATIVE EFFECTS
ON TURKISH OFFICIALS.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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